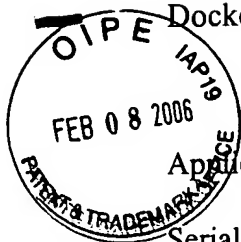


IFW

Docket No.: WIS4987P0321US



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Eric W. Triplett et al.)
)
Serial No.: 10/720,459) Group Art Unit: 1616
)
Filed: November 24, 2003) Examiner: S. Clardy
)
For: Bacterial Inoculants for)
Enhancing Plant Growth)

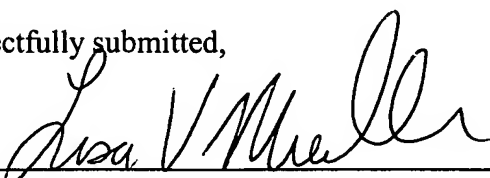
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Attached Form PTO/SB/08A lists an abstract. This abstract was from a seminar given in Sydney, Australia on December 5, 2000. The abstract book for the meeting was available on December 3, 2000. Copies of the abstract are enclosed. Entry into the record is respectfully requested.

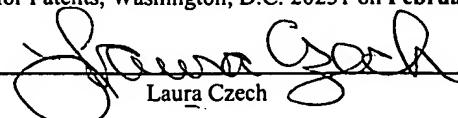
Respectfully submitted,

By 
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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Laura Czech

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)				Application Number	10/720,459
				Filing Date	11/24/2003
				First Named Inventor	Eric W. Triplett <i>et al.</i>
				Group Art Unit	1616
				Examiner Name	S. Cardy
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket No.	WIS4987P0321US

Comparable to Form PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
		Riggs, P. J., et al., "Enhanced Maize and Wheat Productivity By Inoculation with Diazotrophic Endophytes", 8 th International Symposium on Nitrogen Fixation with Non-Legumes, Sydney, AU (12-3-00 - 12-5-00).	
Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) and application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

ENHANCED MAIZE AND WHEAT PRODUCTIVITY BY INOCULATION WITH DIAZOTROPHIC ENDOPHYTES

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Madison, WI 53706 USA

The objective of this work over the last three years was to identify grass-endophyte associations with increased plant productivity compared to uninoculated controls. We have used a collection of endophytes isolated by ourselves and by other groups. The experiments were done under field and greenhouse conditions in the presence or absence of added fixed nitrogen. Significant yield enhancements of N-fertilized maize were obtained with bacterial endophytes that we have isolated from nitrogen efficient lines of maize (such as *Klebsiella pneumoniae* strains kmvsy and 342) and from unfertilized field-grown switchgrass (such as *Pantoea agglomerans* P101 and P102). Several other strains from other groups were also tested with our best yield enhancements from two Brazilian strains, *Gluconacetobacter diazotrophicus* PA15 and *Herbaspirillum seropedicae* Z152. Field experiments in Wisconsin were conducted in 1998, 1999, and 2000 and in an additional four states in 2000 with a minimum of three elite lines of maize used each year. No strains were capable of relieving the nitrogen deficiency symptoms of unfertilized maize in either the field or the greenhouse. However, striking results were recently obtained with two elite lines of spring wheat in the greenhouse where nitrogen deficiency symptoms were dramatically relieved by inoculation with a *Klebsiella* endophytic strain. These plants were cultured in sand-vermiculite in the absence of added N. Other strains relieved nitrogen stress conditions but to a lesser degree. Experiments to determine whether this relief of N-stress conditions is caused by nitrogen fixation by this *Klebsiella* endophyte are now in progress. Data on the genomics of this endophyte will also be presented.

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